THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVE LOPMENT (SHRI DALEIR SINGH): (a) to (c) A programme for energy saving in Government offices has been undertaken. Some guidelines in the form of "Do's" and "Don'ts" have been issued to all Government offi ces. It is proposed to install master control facilities in areas of compa ratively high power consumption. Other steps like installation of elec tronic fan regulators and starting an educational-cum-advertising cam- paign through posters to make the Government employees conscious about this problem are being taken. It is too early to estimate the savings likely to be achieved.

414. *[Withdrawn]*

Delegation of authority for classification of hotels to States

415. SHRI HASHIM RAZA ALLA-HABADI ABDI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that authority to classify a hotel as two star and one star has been delegated to State Governments; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) and (b) At present, there are 436 classified hotels all over the country. These hotels have to be reclassified once in three years. Looking at the magnitude of the work and the need to involve State Governments in the task of tourism promotion the powers to classify one and two star hotels were delegated to State Governments on 1.1.1985.

Production of Edible Oilseeds

416. SHRI GAYA CHAND BHUYAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Govenment has stopped the import of edible oilseeds during the last six months of 1987;

(b) whether there was any shortage of edible oilseeds during the year 1987; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken to increase the production of edible oilseeds during the current year.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRCUL-TURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) (a) During the last six months of 1987, no imports of oilseeds on commer-cial/aid basis were made.

.(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Two Centrally Sponsored Schemes viz: —

(i) National Oilseeds Development Project; and

(ii) Oilseeds Production Thrust Programme (OPTP) are being im-plemented during the curent year.

Under these programmes, financial assistance is provided to farmers in important oilseeds growing States for rendering assistance regarding seeds production, plant protection measures, improved farm implements distribution, extension of technology, supply of sprinkler sets and calcium sulphate etc. for organising demons-tration .

Besides, special efforts are being made during the current year to

popularise the cultivation of sunflower in the country. 35 tonnes of improved sunflower seeds was imported and multiplied during kharif. These were distributed to farmers during rabi. Steps are also being taken to ensure that farmers get an incentive price for their oilseeds crops particularly immediately after harvest.

Dry Land Farming

417., SHRI GAYA CHAND BHU-YAN:

SHRI DINKARRAO GOVINDRAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state

(a) whether Government had increased the acreage of dry land for farming during the year 1987;

(b) whether any cooperation and assistance was made available in this process from ICRISAT;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof;

(d) what concrete steps had been taken to increase the dry land farming during 1987; and

(e) what progress has been made so far with regard to dry land farming?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRl-CULTUE (SHRI HARI KRISHNA SHASTRI): (a) The latest available land use statistics is for the year 1984-85. As per this the net unirri-gated area is 98.9 m.ha. The figures for 1937-88 are not available.

(b) and (c) Not applicable.

(d) and (e) To reduce the overall impact of the current drought on India's agricultural production, ICAR and other line departments have suggested the following short and long term strategies;

AGRICULTURE

1. Crop production practices for important r*abi* crops such as wheat rice, barley, pulses and oilseeds both under irrigated and rainfed situations.

2. Important crops and areas have been identified under assured growing conditions for meeting the future seed requirements and aug-enting the seed supply.

3. Package of practices for promising fruit crops which can tolerate drought conditions have been evolved.

4. Fodder

A. Short term measures

(i) Punjab and Haryana States have around 10.5 m. tonnes of paddy straw. This straw is being utilised for livestock feeding after suitable treatment.

(ii) Considerable amount of sugarcane bagasse is available in some sugarcane growing areas in the country. This bagasse can be utilised as cattle feed after suitable treatment;

(iii) Intensive production of fodder crops in assured/limited water supply situations.

B. Long term measures

(i) Growing of fodder shrubs and trees in agro-forestry, social-forestry and other forestry pro-gammes.